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SEP 10 1939

Kidnappers Were After Dr. P. Terni

**Italian Visitor Had Been
Seized By Mistake
On Friday Night**

Investigation conducted by authorities late on Friday night, following the report of the kidnapping of Dr. Nevio Fanceschi, Italian visitor to Shanghai, after he had stepped out of St. Anne Building on Rue du Consulat on Friday evening, revealed that the kidnappers were apparently after Dr. Piero V. E. Terni, well-known local Italian attorney with offices on Yuen Ming Yuen Road.

Dr. Terni was offered protection both by the French Police and the Italian Consular authorities yesterday, but refused these, stating that he could take care of himself.

It is not surprising that the kidnappers who whisked away Dr. Fanceschi mistook him for Dr. Terni, as the two men are about the same height and build and both were dressed in a similar manner on Friday evening. Dr. Fanceschi had paid a visit to Dr. Terni at the latter's apartment and was leaving him when he was grabbed by armed Chinese, pushed into a car and driven away, later to be released on Avenue du Roi Albert after his identity was discovered.

Authorities are continuing investigations into the kidnapping, while Dr. Terni could not advance any reason why anyone should want to kidnap him.

*D.C. Comin
Information*



FILE
762

*D.C. St Branch
Sir, French Police
report on subject of
above kidnapping
obtained and attached
Post 12/5*

CHINA PRESS.

SEP 9 1939

Italian Visitor Kidnaped, Released After Three Hours

Baffled French police late last night were ready to abandon as an unsolved mystery the first foreign kidnaping, or rather attempted kidnaping, case which has occurred in Shanghai for years.

Near-victim of the kidnapers, according to the meager information in the hands of the French police themselves was one Signor Francesci, who arrived in Shanghai about a week ago for a short visit.

Although local Italian authorities gave the French police every co-operation they could in the unusual circumstances, the central character in the drama refused to speak. Despite all the efforts of the French police, Signor Francesci steadfastly remained silent, and added not one word to what the Italian authorities were able to pass on to the Concession minions of the law.

Signor Francesci, according to the information which was relayed to the French police, was held up by a gang of three armed Chinese as he left St. Anne Building in Rue du Consulat at about 7 last night. He was unceremoniously bundled in a waiting motor-car, gagged and blindfolded and had his hands bound.

After the car had traveled for about twenty minutes, he was taken into a foreign-style house, and was there asked if he was Italian. Answering in the affirmative, he was asked his name and particulars of his past. After hearing his replies, the apparent leader of the gang apologized and said they had made a mistake.

Once again the unfortunate visitor was blindfolded, gagged and bound and taken into the motor-car. He saw the dim light of night again at the corner of Avenue du Roi Albert and Route Paul Henri, and greatly shaken by his experience, immediately obeyed his orders to march straight ahead without looking back, on pain of instant death.

Eventually Signor Francesci made his way to an Italian restaurant opposite the Auditorium, and there, among his compatriots, related his story, which later reached the French police through the Italian authorities.

The Concession police were of the opinion that there had quite evidently been some plan to kidnap an Italian citizen, but for some unforeseen reason, the plan had failed, and the visitor had been an unwitting factor in the failure.

SEP 2 1939

Wrong Man Taken By Bandits

**Mr. Francesci Forced
To Car And Taken
For Questioning**

A band of Chinese kidnapped a visiting Italian here by mistake last night, but on discovering their mistake released the man without harming him. They had kept him blindfolded the whole time.

The victim was a Mr. Francesci, 30-years-of-age, who has only been in Shanghai about one week. When walking out of the Ste. Anne Building, at 25 Rue de Consulat, at 9 o'clock last night three Chinese rushed at him, with pistols, and forced him into a waiting motor car.

The car immediately started off. The two men in the back seat bound his hands and tied a handkerchief over his eyes. They took him to foreign-style house where he was ordered by the Chinese in broken English, to answer a series of questions which the Italian could hardly understand.

They asked him his nationality, his business, his residence, his friends and many other questions, which the victim answered to the best of his ability. The bandits soon discovered that something was wrong and after further questioning and some discussion between themselves, arrived at the conclusion they had the wrong man.

Victim Released

They decided to release him. He was taken back into the motor car and driven to Rue Albert and Route Paul Henry where he was released. He was instructed not to look back at the car.

Mr. Francesci obeyed these instructions and then ran to the Sevilla Restaurant at 316-18 Avenue du Roi Albert, opposite the Auditorium. He told of his capture and the proprietor informed the French Police.

The man was not injured in any way and was released at 10.30 p.m. The police now have a double task on their hands, attempting to learn who the kidnappers were and who the real person they want may be.

September 8, 1939.

CID Case No. 89786

S. E. RE. 9433

Subject: Supposed kidnapping of a foreigner.

At 9.30 p.m. September 8, the Chief of the Criminal Investigation Department was informed that a foreigner had been kidnapped by Chinese on Rue Montauban; that the foreigner had been released and that he could be found at the restaurant Sevilla on Avenue du Roi Albert.

Inspector Henri and Sergeant Clerissi proceeded immediately to the place to start an investigation. The foreigner concerned was Mr. Nevio Franceschi, an Italian lawyer, residing at No. 5 Kelmescot Garden, Avenue du Roi Albert, Telephone 71862. This gentleman has been in Shanghai only since July 9, 1938 coming, it appears, from Italian East Africa.

According to Mr. Franceschi, the kidnapping took place in the following manner:-

At about 6.20 p.m. Mr. Franceschi paid a call on his friend Mr. Piero V. E. Terni, lawyer, residing at No. 25 Saint Anne Building, Rue du Consulat where he also met Mr. Albini, another lawyer. He left them soon afterwards, saying: "I am going to take a taxi on Rue Montauban; you will join me at dinner at the Italian Club on Rue Maresca." Upon leaving his friends, he heard a Chinese say to him, "You want a car." Mr. Franceschi, who was in a hurry, replied in the affirmative. The Chinese showed him a car in front of the building and without any hesitation Mr. Franceschi entered the vehicle.

(It is to be noted that Mr. Franceschi claims that the taxi was waiting on the north side at the top of Rue du Consulat, the front of the car facing west. This seems improbable because none of our policemen would have permitted parking in this manner especially at this place.)

As soon as the door of the car was closed, a Chinese seated near the chauffeur suddenly turned around and placing a revolver against Mr. Franceschi's stomach, said, "Don't move." The car then started. Mr. Franceschi was bound and his eyes blindfolded. The car was in motion for about 20 minutes but he could not say what route it took. The men then led him into a house where the bandage was removed from his eyes. He found himself in a sort of grand salon well laid out and guarded by two Chinese: one in a grey gown and the other in a black long gown. These two men were each armed with a Mauser pistol.

After waiting for about 20 minutes, a Chinese neatly dressed in European clothing, entered and after making an examination of Mr. Franceschi, said to him: "I am very sorry. We have made a mistake. It was not you we wanted."

The Chinese asked Mr. Franceschi where he lived and the latter replied, "Roi Albert." Mr. Franceschi was then quickly blindfolded and taken to the corner of Avenue du Roi Albert and Rue Paul Henry. When he was alighting from the car, some one said to him at the point of pistols, "Continue on your way without looking behind."

Mr. Franceschi said that he believed that the car which took him there was a black one, whilst the taxi that he had engaged on Rue du Consulat was of chestnut colour, but he was not quite sure.

At 11 p.m. we approached Mr. Terni at his home No. 25 Rue du Consulat. He declared that he could not understand why this should have happened to his friend, Mr. Franceschi. Mr. Terni does not think that Mr. Franceschi had been mistaken for himself for he (Mr. Terni) has been going out every night and returns very late at night, sometimes even at three o'clock in the morning and he had never noticed anything abnormal around him. Mr. Terni added that he never had anything to do with Chinese and that he ~~had never~~ taken any part in dubious affairs.

Tonkinese Policeman No. I49 who was on duty in front of the Chancery, declared that he did not see any taxi parked at the place indicated by Mr. Franceschi, especially in the manner that he had declared.

Chinese Policeman No. I33 declared that at about 5.30 p.m. he noticed a taxi parked in front of the French Consulate, that this taxi was under tow and that soon afterwards the taxi was towed into the garage. This was found to be correct.

An investigation made by detective No. 225 at the Ford, Johnson, Silver, Taylor, Edward, Kia and Tong Sing garages had no result.

We note that Mr. Franceschi bears no resemblance whatever to Mr. Terni.

The Director of the Criminal Investigation Department also heard Mr. Franceschi's statement.

Henry,
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Tonkinese Policeman No. 149 who was on duty in front of the Chancery, declared that he did not see any taxi parked at the place indicated by Mr. Franceschi, especially in the manner that he had declared.

Chinese Policeman No. 133 declared that at about 5.30 p.m. he noticed a taxi parked in front of the French Consulate, that this taxi was under tow and that soon afterwards the taxi was towed into the garage. This was found to be correct.

An investigation made by detective No. 225 at the Ford, Johnson, Silver, Taylor, Edward, Kia and Tong Sing garages had no result.

We note that Mr. Franceschi bears no resemblance whatever to Mr. Terni.

The Director of the Criminal Investigation Department also heard Mr. Franceschi's statement.

Henry,
Inspector.

Brigade Criminelle
Affaire N° 89786

OBJET

Prétendu enlèvement
d'un Européen.

Agent en Charge

Inspecteur HENRY.

*Mr. Zigo
translation
H. B. B.*

Changhai le 8 Septembre 1939.

RAPPORT

Le 8 Septembre, à 21 heures 30, Monsieur le Sous-Directeur, Chef de la Sûreté a été informé qu'un étranger avait été enlevé rue Montauban par des chinois, que cet étranger avait été relâché et qu'il se trouvait présentement au restaurant "SEVILLA" Avenue du Roi Albert.

L'Inspecteur HENRI et le Sergent-Chef CLERISSEI se sont rendus aussitôt sur les lieux pour enquêter. Il s'agissait de Mr. NEVIO FRANCESCHI, Avocat, de nationalité Italienne, demeurant au N°5 Kelmscot Garden, avenue du Roi Albert (Téléphone 71862). Ce monsieur n'est à Shanghai que depuis le 9 Juillet 1938, venant, paraît-il de l'Afrique Orientale Italienne.

D'après la déclaration de Mr. FRANCESCHI, l'enlèvement se serait passé comme suit :

Vers 18 heures 20 Mr. FRANCESCHI est allé rendre visite à son camarade Maître PIERO V.E. TERNI, domicilié au N°25 "Saint Anne Building" rue du Consulat où il a également rencontré Maître ALBINI. Il les quitta peu après en disant : "Je vais prendre un taxi rue Montauban vous me rejoindrez pour dîner au Club Italien de la rue Maresca". En sortant de chez ses amis (25 Consulat), un chinois lui cria : "You want a car". Mr. FRANCESCHI, qui était pressé, répondit affirmativement. Le chinois lui montra un taxi en face de la maison, sans hésiter Mr. FRANCESCHI monta dans la voiture (il est à noter que Mr. FRANCESCHI prétend que le taxi attendait cette

...

Nord à hauteur de la Rue du Consulat, L'avant tourné vers l'ouest. Ceci semble invraisemblable car aucun de nos agents n'aurait permis un stationnement dans ce sens surtout à cet endroit).

Dès que la portière fut refermée, un chinois assis près du chauffeur se retourna brusquement et cria "Dont Move" et lui braqua un revolver sur le ventre. La voiture partit et Mr.FRANCESCHI fut ligoté et eut les yeux bandés. La voiture aurait roulé une vingtaine de minutes et Mr.FRANCESCHI ne peut dire le trajet parcouru. Les ravisseurs le firent entrer dans une maison et lui débandèrent les yeux. Il se trouvait dans un espèce de grand salon très propre et était gardé par deux chinois en longue robe. L'une grise et l'autre noire. Ces deux hommes étaient armés chacun d'un pistolet genre "Mauser". Après environ trente minutes d'attente, un chinois élégamment vêtu à l'européenne, est entré et il a examiné Mr.FRANCESCHI et lui a dit : "I am very sorry. we have made a mistake. it was not you we wanted ".

Le chinois a demandé à Mr.FRANCESCHI où il habitait. Ce dernier a répondu : "Roi Albert". Aussitôt Mr.FRANCESCHI fut emmené les yeux bandés et reconduit jusqu'à hauteur de Paul Henry, Roi Albert. A la descente de l'auto on lui a dit sous menace des pistolets : "Continuez votre route sans regarder en arrière". Mr. Franceschi dit qu'il croit que la voiture qui l'a ramené était de couleur noire, tandis que le taxi qu'il a pris rue du Consulat était de couleur marron, mais il n'en est pas très certain.

A 23 heures, nous avons approché Mr.TERNI à son domicile, 25 Rue du Consulat, lequel nous a déclaré qu'il ne comprenait rien de ce qui était arrivé à son camarade FRANCESCHI.

Mr.TERNI ne pense pas que ce soit lui qui était visé à la place de Mr.FRANCESCHI car il sort chaque soir, rentre fort tard dans la nuit, parfois même à trois heures du matin et n'a jamais rien remarqué d'anormal autour de lui.

Mr.TERNI a ajouté qu'il n'avait jamais rien eu avec des chinois et qu'il ne s'était jamais occupé d'affaire louche.

Le Garde Tonkinois N°149 qui était de service devant la Chancellerie, a déclaré qu'il n'avait pas vu de taxi en station à l'endroit indiqué par Mr.FRANCESCHI surtout dans le sens dont ce Monsieur le prétend.

L'agent chinois 133 a déclaré que vers 17 h.30 il avait remarqué un taxi en station devant le Consulat de France, que ce taxi était en panne et que peu après le véhicule a été remarqué dans un garage. Cette dernière remarque a été reconnue exacte.

Une enquête faite par le détective 225 dans les garages "Ford" "Johnson" "Silver" "Taylor" "Edouard" "Kia" et "Tong Sing" est restée sans résultat.

Nous notons que Mr.FRANCESCHI n'a aucune ressemblance avec Mr.TERNI.

Mr.le Sous-Directeur, Chef de la Sûreté, a également entendu Mr.FRANCESCHI.

Ci-joint déclaration.

l'Inspecteur.